

**STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER JONATHAN S. ADELSTEIN**

***Re: Implementation of the NET 911 Act, WC Docket No. 08-171***

Since the earliest days of this Commission, promoting our nation's public safety through communications has been our highest calling. In recent years, the migration of communications networks to IP-based technology has created both opportunities and challenges for public safety and emergency communications. Responding to technological and marketplace changes, this Commission made clear three years ago that consumers of interconnected VoIP services deserve access to life saving 911 and E911 services. With the passage of the "NET 911 Improvement Act of 2008" (NET 911 Act), Congress reaffirmed this mandate and charged us with an active role in transitioning to an IP-enabled emergency communications network.

Finding that more than 9 million consumers use VoIP services as a substitute for traditional telephony, Congress directed the Commission to ensure that providers of IP-enabled voice services comply with 911 and E911 obligations and that these providers have access to the capabilities necessary to provide 911 and E911 services. By opening this proceeding today, we take the first step toward implementing Congress's directive.

I am pleased that we now seek comment in a neutral and balanced fashion on the specific rights and obligations imposed by Congress in the NET 911 Act. Though I expect to hear differing opinions on how to implement these statutory provisions – and, indeed, we have much work to do to meet Congress's 90-day statutory deadline – we must remain committed to making E911 a success for these increasingly important services and for the consumers who reach for that critical lifeline in their time of need. Additionally, I note that while there are a number of E911 compliance and policy questions raised by dual-mode mobile commercial mobile radio service/VoIP handsets that use Wi-Fi technology, these issues are more appropriately addressed in a separate proceeding. Indeed, at least one party sought clarification on the Commission's policies on E911 requirements for IP-enabled service providers several years ago.<sup>1</sup> By attempting to append these issues here, we risk diverting this Notice from the core issues, potentially making it more difficult to reach the 90-day statutory deadline.

Nevertheless, I approve this item and look forward to working with representatives of the public safety community, providers, and all interested stakeholders to implement this Act quickly and ensure that E911 services remain robust and reliable.

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<sup>1</sup> See T-Mobile Petition, *supra* note 18.